AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A tarnish inhibiting composition effective to protect a surface of a silver object containing in excess of 90% silver, when the surface is exposed to the composition in a sealed environment, against tarnishing in a molecular-oxygen containing atmosphere containing in the range from 1 ppb (parts per billion) to 10 ppm (parts per million) of hydrogen sulfide at a relative humidity of 90% and 37.4°C (100°F), for at least one year, the composition ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising: a substantially non-hydrolyzable polymer having substantially homogeneously dispersed therein from about 0.01% to 5% by weight of an essentially anhydrous scavenger ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ including an alkali metal silicate [[and]] or zinc oxide, in combination with from 0 to 1% of an inert adjuvant, provided that the polymer has a water vapor transmission rate (WVTR) at least as high as that of low density polyethylene.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ includes low density polyethylene, polypropylene, copolymers of lower C_2-C_8 olefins, copolymers of a lower C_2-C_8 olefin and ethylene/vinyl alcohol, non-biodegradable polyester, poly(vinyl chloride), polystyrene, or polyamide, or combinations thereof, [[and]] or a biodegradable ~~polyester~~ polymer having a WVTR higher than about 1.5 gm/24 hr measured per 0.025 mm (mil) thickness and 645 cm^2 (100 in^2) area at 37.4°C (100°F) and 90% RH (relative humidity).

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the biodegradable polymer is a polyester ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ including a star ε-caprolactone;[[,]] ε-caprolactone (PCL); poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate) (PHBV);[[,]] ~~containing 8, 16 and 24% valerate;~~ an uncoated- [[and]] or nitrocellulose-coated cellophane

films; crosslinked chitosan; starch/ethylene vinyl alcohol (St/EVOH) blend film[[s]]; pure EVOH film (38 mole percent ethylene); [[and]] or polycaprolactone (PCL), molecular weight about 80,000 Daltons; or combinations thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[1]] 3, wherein the alkali metal silicate is a silicate of sodium, and the adjuvant ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ includes fumed silica [[and]] or calcium carbonate, or combinations thereof, and wherein the adjuvant is present in an amount in the range from 0.01% to 1% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is transparent, wherein the adjuvant is present, and the scavenger and the adjuvant, independently, have a primary particle size in the range from about 1 μm to 53 μm and are substantially homogeneously dispersed in the polymer.

6. (Cancelled.)

7. (Cancelled.)

8. (Cancelled.)

9. (New) The composition of claim 2, wherein said polymer is said biodegradable polymer, said biodegradable polymer including star ε-caprolactone; ε-caprolactone (PCL); poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate) (PHBV); an uncoated- or nitrocellulose-coated cellophane film; crosslinked chitosan; starch/ethylene vinyl alcohol (St/EVOH) blend film; pure EVOH film (38 mole percent ethylene); or polycaprolactone (PCL), molecular weight about 80,000 Daltons; or combinations thereof.

10. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the alkali metal silicate is a silicate of sodium, and the adjuvant is fumed silica or calcium carbonate, or combinations thereof, and wherein the adjuvant is present in an amount in the range from 0.01% to 1% by weight.

11. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein the composition is transparent, wherein the adjuvant is present, and wherein the scavenger and the adjuvant, independently, have a primary particle size in the range from about 1 μm to 53 μm and are substantially homogeneously dispersed in the polymer.

12. (New) The composition of claim 2, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.

13. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.

14. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.

15. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is said alkali metal silicate.

16. (New) The composition of claim 2, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.

17. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.

18. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.

19. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein said anhydrous scavenger is zinc oxide.